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ABSTRACT

This guide gives middle school teachers and principals the tools they need to get answers to their questions about program evaluation. It shows how to use the information to work more effectively and efficiently and explains how to use program evaluation techniques to make sure that the approaches selected really solve the problems of interest. The introduction to this book lays a foundation, defining three categories of questions that a middle school educator would likely want answered. It also includes an explanation of the key concepts of program evaluation. Chapters 1 through 6 take the educator through the six steps of conducting an evaluation, and chapter 7 gives advice about clearly communicating the evaluation results to a variety of audiences. The remaining chapters explore in detail the three categories of questions educators want answered. The chapters are: (1) "Doing Evaluations: Step 1 Pose Questions"; (2) "Doing Evaluations: Step 2 Establish Judgment Criteria"; (3) "Doing Evaluations: Step 3 Make a Plan"; (4) "Doing Evaluations: Step 4 Gather Data"; (5) "Doing Evaluations: Step 5 Analyze the Data"; (6) "Doing Evaluations: Step 6 Interpret the Results of Your Analysis"; (7) "Sharing the Answers to Your Questions"; (8) "Taking-Stock Questions"; (9) "Effectiveness Questions"; and (10) "Solution-Seeking Questions." An epilogue summarizes some main points in conducting program evaluations, and an appendix contains notes on some terms used in the discussions. (Contains 141 figures and 18 references.) (SLD)

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